DUNTRY:

West Germany

IBJECT:

Attitude on Second

Term for House

ACE ACQUIRED:

ITE ACQUIRED:

REPORT NO .:

DATE OF INFO.:

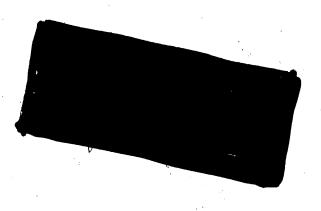
DATE OF REPORT: 5 May 1954

REFERENCES:

JURCE, SOURCE EVALUATION, APPRAISAL OF CONTEHT:

SPD Chairman Erich Ollonhauer stated at an that he personally favored Federal President Professor Dr. Theoder Heuss for a second term. He said that the SPD was naturally displeased with House's submission to Chancellor Adenauer on the EDC and the constitutional amendments. He also believes that a motion for SPD endorsement of Heuss would meet considerable opposition in the ranks of the party's Bundestag delegates. He was sure, however, that he could convince a majority to vote for Heuss on the grounds that there simply was no available alternative candidate with reasonable appeal who would have a chance to unseat Heuss now that the CDU had officially come out for a second term. Opposition for the sake of opposition, he said, would be a waste of effort.

Once he had convinced his audience of the reasonableness of his approach, he informed them that he had already told Heuss of his decision when House sent his principal aide, Dr. Manfred Klaiber, to contact Ollenhauer in the



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